

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 5, 2006. Claims 1 to 6, 9 and 11 are in the application, with Claims 7, 8 and 10 having been cancelled herein. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the substance of dependent Claims 7 and 8, and these claims have consequently been cancelled. Accordingly, independent Claim 1, together with its dependent claims, is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action entered rejections of Claims 1, 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Peters in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,970,978 (Wu), Claims 2 and 11 under § 103(a) over Peters and Wu in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0233492 (Schelling), Claims 4 to 6 under Peters and Wu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,522,055 (Kamanaka), and Claims 9 and 10 under § 103(a) over Peters and Wu in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,920 (Mekhiel). Claims 7, 8 and 10 have been cancelled, and the remaining claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward A. Kmett
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 118097v1